

Parenting, Parent-Child-Relationships, and Life Satisfaction in German and Indian Adolescents

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Theoretical Outline

- Cross-cultural research has shown that parental acceptance and parental control have partly different functions for development in Western as compared to Asian cultures
(Chao & Tseng, 2002; Rohner & Pettengill, 1985)
- Specifically, controlling parenting is perceived positively by Asian adolescents in contrast to Western adolescents
- Though Indian urban families experienced changes due to modernization, parent-child relations remained traditional
(Mishra, Mayer, Trommsdorff, Albert, & Schwarz, 2005)
- Few studies deal with associations among parenting and parent-child relations in different cultures though mutual influences can be expected (Trommsdorff, 2006)



Theoretical Outline (cont.)

- This study attempts to explore:
 - Similarities and differences with regard to Indian and German adolescents' perception of parenting and their relationship with mothers and fathers
 - Associations between parenting and the parent child-relationship
 - Associations of parenting and the parent-child relationship with adolescents' life satisfaction



Sample

India



N = 150 adolescents (52% female)

Age M = 16.17 (SD = 1.28)

from Varanasi



Germany

N = 150 adolescents (50% female)

Age M = 15.58 (SD = 1.07)

from Konstanz, Essen and Chemnitz



Instruments: Parenting

(Rohner & Cournoyer, 1994)

- Acceptance (10 items)

„My mother makes me feel wanted and needed“

- Control (G: 6 items, I: 3 Items)

„My mother is always telling me how I should behave“

Items rated on a 4-point scale from

1 = Almost never true to 4 = Almost always true



Factor Analysis: Parenting

Principal Component Analysis, Varimax-Rotation	Germany (n = 150)		India (n = 150)	
Items	Acceptance	Control	Acceptance	
Mother says nice things to me	.70		.70	
Mother makes it easy to confide her	.69		.59	
Mother is interested in the things I do	.74		.57	
Mother respects my point of view	.68		.66	
Mother praises me when I deserve it	.65		.62	
Mother treats me gently, with kindness	.79		.71	
Mother makes me feel wanted, needed	.81		.67	
Moth makes me feel better when I am hurt	.65		.47	-.36
Mother lets me know that she loves me	.80		.61	
Mother makes me feel that what I do is important	.75		.65	
Mother tells what time to be home		.80	.67	
Mother is telling me how I should behave		.50	.63	
Mother lets me go anywhere I want		-.60		.76
Mother insists I do what I am told		.44		.48
Mother lets me go out any evening		-.68		.78
Mother wants to control what I do		.50	.61	



Instruments: Parent-Child Relationship

(Furman & Buhrmester, 1985)

- **Intimacy (6 items)**

„How often do you tell your mother/father everything that is on your mind?“

- **Conflict (6 items)**

„How often do you and your mother/father argue with each other?“

- **Emotional Closeness (2 items)**

„How emotionally close do you feel to your mother/father?“

Items rated on a 5-point scale from **1 = Never** to **5 = Always**



Factor Analysis: Parent-child Relationship

Principal Component Analysis, Varimax-Rotation		Germany (n = 150)		India (n = 150)	
Items		Intimacy / Closeness	Conflict	Intimacy / Closeness	Conflict
You share secrets and feelings (mother)		.80		.64	
Talk things don't want others to know (mother)		.76		.66	
You tell everything that is on your mind (mother)		.68		.67	-.33
You share secrets and feelings (father)		.68		.62	
Talk things don't want others to know (father)		.67		.67	
How emotionally close do you feel? (mother)		.60		.53	-.40
You tell everything that is on your mind (father)		.50		.65	
How emotionally close do you feel? (father)		.43	-.35	.63	-.35
Do you disagree and quarrel? (father)			.81		.71
Do you argue with each other? (father)			.79		.66
Are you upset with or mad at each other? (father)			.77		.73
Do you disagree and quarrel? (mother)			.57		.55
Do you argue with each other? (mother)			.56		.51
Are you upset with or mad at each other? (mother)			.53		.50



Instruments: Life Satisfaction

(Diener, Gohm, Suh, & Oishi, 2000; Henrich & Herschbach, 1995)

1. How satisfied are you with your friendships?
2. How satisfied are you with your health?
3. How satisfied are you with school?
4. How satisfied are you with your family?
5. All things considered, how satisfied are you with life as a whole these days?

Items rated on a 5-point scale from

1 = Not satisfied at all to 5 = Very satisfied

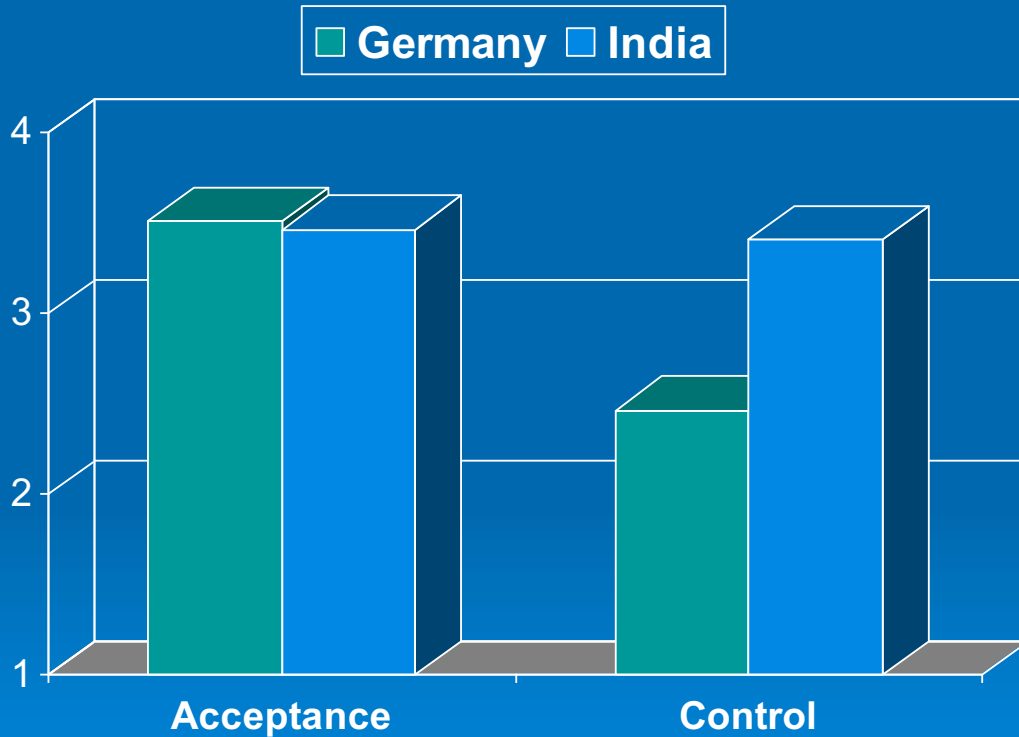


Scale Reliabilities

Cronbach's Alpha	Germany	India
Acceptance	.90	.84
Control	.64	.69
Intimacy / Closeness	.81	.79
Conflict	.79	.70
Life satisfaction	.68	.63



Parenting



- Both high in **Acceptance**
- Indians higher in **Control**

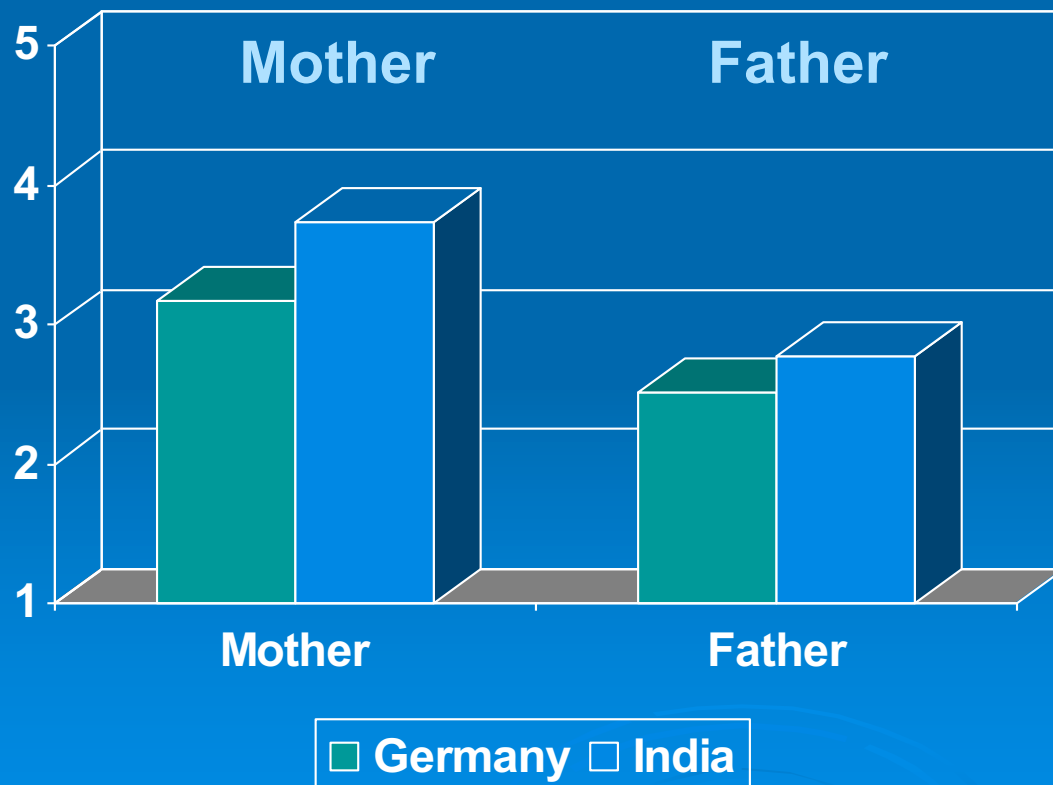
$F(1,298) = 0.88$ ns

$F(1,298) = 200.15$
($p < .001$, $\eta^2 = .40$)



Parent-Child Relationship

Intimacy / Closeness

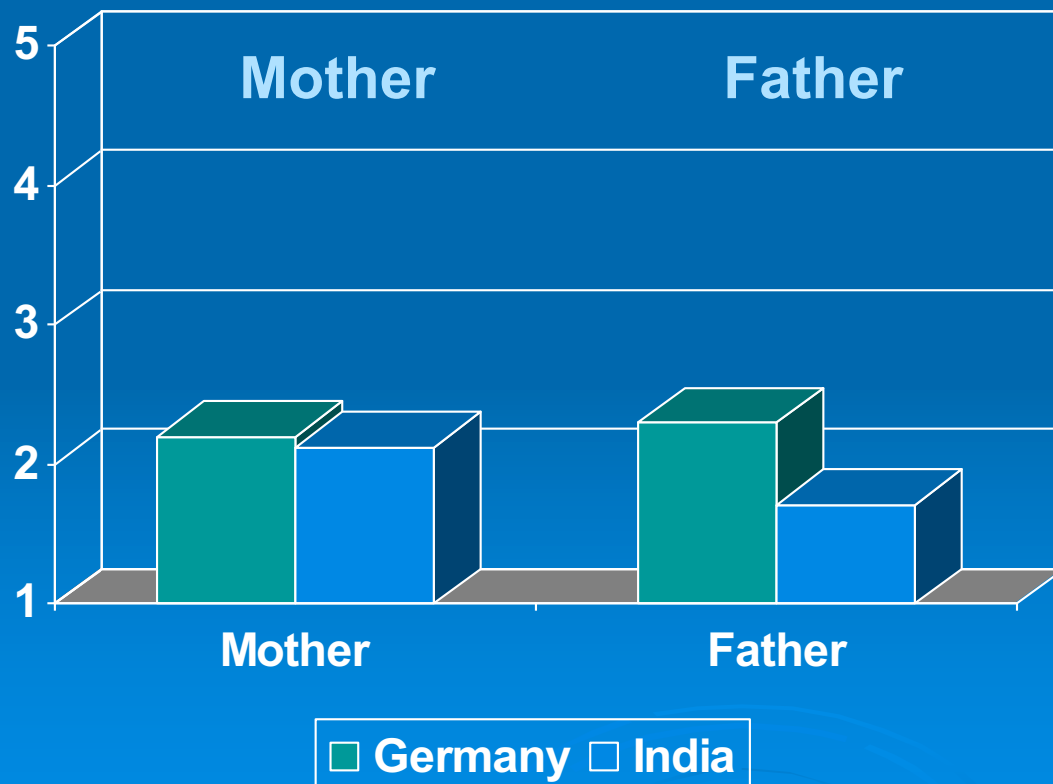


Effects	<i>F</i>
Culture	25.07**
Mother/Father	228.98**
C x MF	7.97**
Wilk's Lambda	.57 / .97



Parent-Child Relationship

Conflict



Effects	<i>F</i>
Culture	25.25**
Mother/Father	12.08**
C x MF	30.83**
Wilk's Lambda	.96 / .91

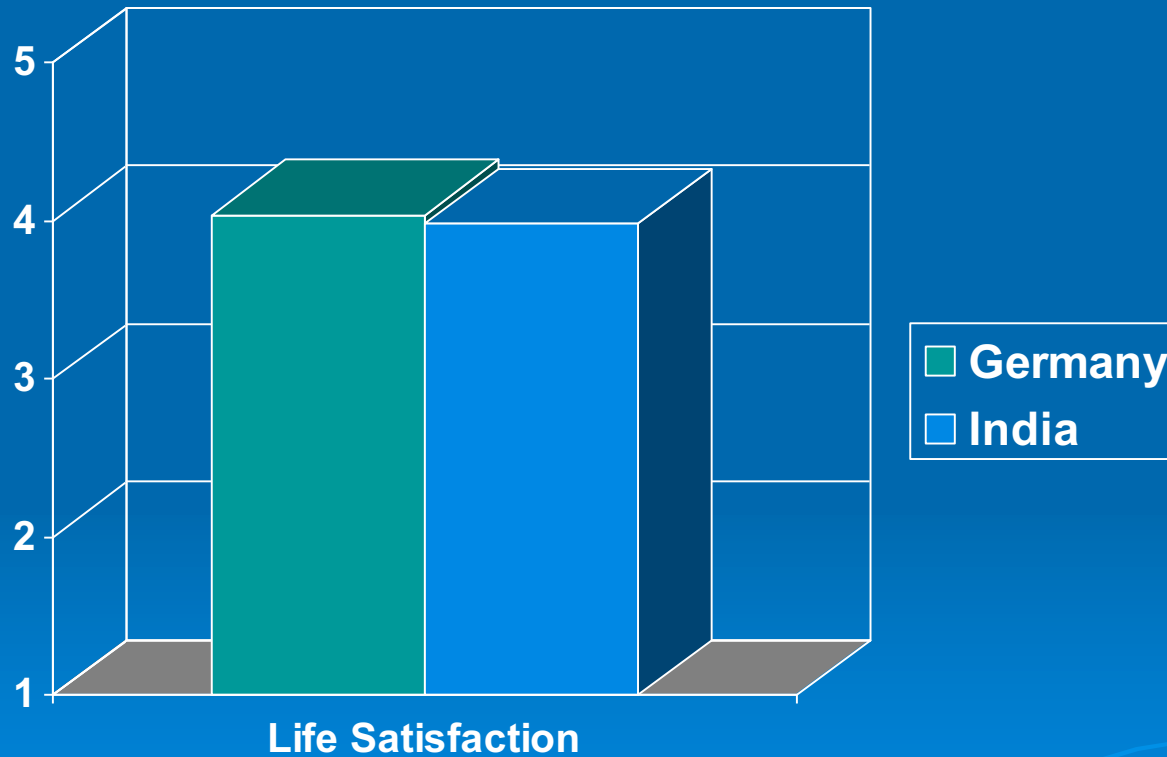


Parent-Child Relationship: Summary

- Indian adolescents report more Intimacy / Closeness with both parents than German adolescents
- Germans report more Conflict with fathers than Indians
- Intimacy / Closeness with fathers in both cultures lower than with mothers



Life Satisfaction



$F(1,298) = 0.70$ ns



Correlations

	Acceptance	Control	Intimacy / Closeness	Conflict	LS
Acceptance		.66**	.39**	-.31**	.36**
Control	-.01		.30**	-.19*	.40**
Intimacy / Closeness	.59**	.08		-.16*	.30**
Conflict	-.36**	.21*	-.22**		-.18*
Life Satisfaction	.26**	.14	.19*	-.23*	

INDIA

GERMANY



Discussion

- Intra-construct correlations reflect the results of the factor analyses
- Correlations between
 - parenting and parent-child-relationship and between
 - parenting and life satisfaction

reflect different meanings of parental control in the two cultural contexts.



Discussion (cont.)

- Similar correlations between
 - the parent-child relationship and life satisfaction**reflect similar cultural meanings with regard to intimacy / closeness and conflict with parents**
- In spite of construct-non-equivalence (parenting) it is theoretically useful to explore relationships with relevant outcome variables to characterize the kind of cultural diversity



Conclusions

- We caution against cultural bias in Western theories on parenting: The parenting dimensions of Acceptance and Control are not independent in the Indian context.
- We assume that the cultural family model of interdependence as compared to that of independence (e.g., **Kagitcibasi, 1996**) influences the associations among these parenting variables, parent-child-relationships, and life satisfaction.



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